

Information Disclosure Statement

Document EP 332,140 has been considered, but it does not appear relevant to the invention under examination.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record, either alone or in combination, fails to anticipate or render obvious the instantly claimed invention. The prior art fails to teach or suggest the herein claimed catalyst composition containing copper oxide, zinc oxide, manganese oxide and silica in the particularly claimed amounts. Even those documents that might broadly suggest the possibility of employing all of the claimed components have different utility, and therefore the skilled artisan would not have found it obvious to arrive at the specifically claimed compositional amounts under examination. Accordingly, the method for making this composition, and the method for using it under the herein claimed effective conditions to hydrogenate maleic anhydride are also considered novel and unobvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth D. Wood whose telephone number is 571-272-1377. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 5:30-2:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on 571-272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Elizabeth D. Wood/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1793

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